

lack of fear. The current electorate, 40 % percent of which did not witness the Korean War, is not as docile as the previous generation and thus does not accept the imposed intimidation or the fictional threat of N. Korean invasion. This might possibly dispel the myth of communist takeover that has been preached in the S. Koreans by the ruling governments throughout modern history.

This year the student movement in S. Korea has taken up reunification as its central issue for political and social democratization. This is in opposition to the military and ruling parties' ineffectual attitudes towards unification. The student movements struggle and slogans for a reunified country have forced the government to take a serious look at an issue that it previously monopolized, using it only to divert attention away from other equally serious problems. This seeming change of focus by the current opposition is in reality a greater accusation against the country's internal ruling military and monied elite. The ruling military and monied elite have always been perceived as having compromised the interests of the country in order to preserve their position of power.

In North Korea a younger generation is also less interested in ideological orthodoxy, rather they seem to express readiness for liberalized experimentation. As soon as their present ruler passes from office, the new generation will probably oppose Jungil Kim, his son, from assuming power.

Currently, there exists a widespread desire, shared by both sides and both generations, to witness the country's eventual reunification. However, each side perceives the realization of reunification quite differently. North Korea supports a non-aligned, independent country that could potentially sustain itself without outside intervention. South Korea has always maintained a powerless and immobile "reunification ministry". This ministry has made no real effort to deal with the reunification process, primarily because the ruling government fears the occurrence of reunification and an integrated democratic society as a threat to its existing power.

The discussion is now open to ways of making two different economic systems work side by side. Where the construction of a single country, an association, a commonwealth or other variations of unity would allow for the reunification of one people locked in two states, divided by the marking of an old and obsolete war.

### "Project DMZ" Organizing Committee

Cathleen Crabb: Project Director

Nam June Paik: Honorary Chairperson

Mo Bahe, Gordon Gilbert, Jin Kim, Amerigo Marras, Young Soon Min, Leo Modrcin, Shirin Neshat, Taeg Nishimoto, Kyong Park, Tony Pleskow, Ken Saylor, Christopher Scholz



Pouring of concrete line which divides North and South territory within the so-called neutral zone of Panmunjom. The design and construction was a collaborative effort by both sides.

December 3, 8pm

Panel Discussion on Project DMZ

with Mo Bahe, Um Hyuk, Yong Soon Min and Kyong Park



Soldier inspecting the fence along the DMZ.

December 6, 7-9pm

Discussion of Critical Issues on Public Art

Moderator: Richard Nonas

Richard Nonas will moderate an open discussion concerning public art (and architecture) focusing on the problems of public art as affirmation of the limits of society, and affirmation of license in society. What succeeds? In what ways do works ultimately display their creators' definitions of city.

December 18, 7-11pm

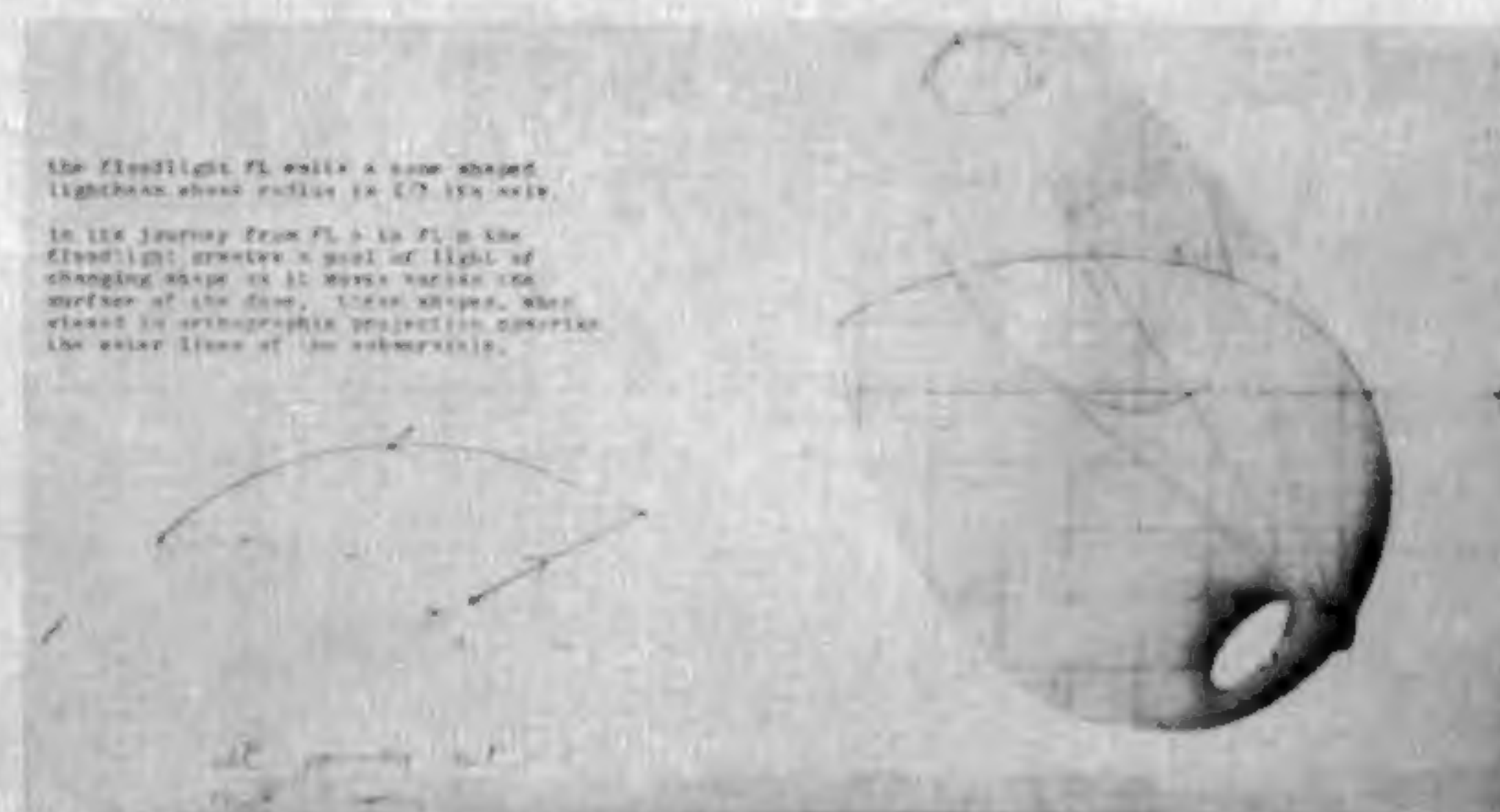
"Eyes of a Storm"

A presentation of 25 video artists and works from Japan. Organized by Dragan Ilic

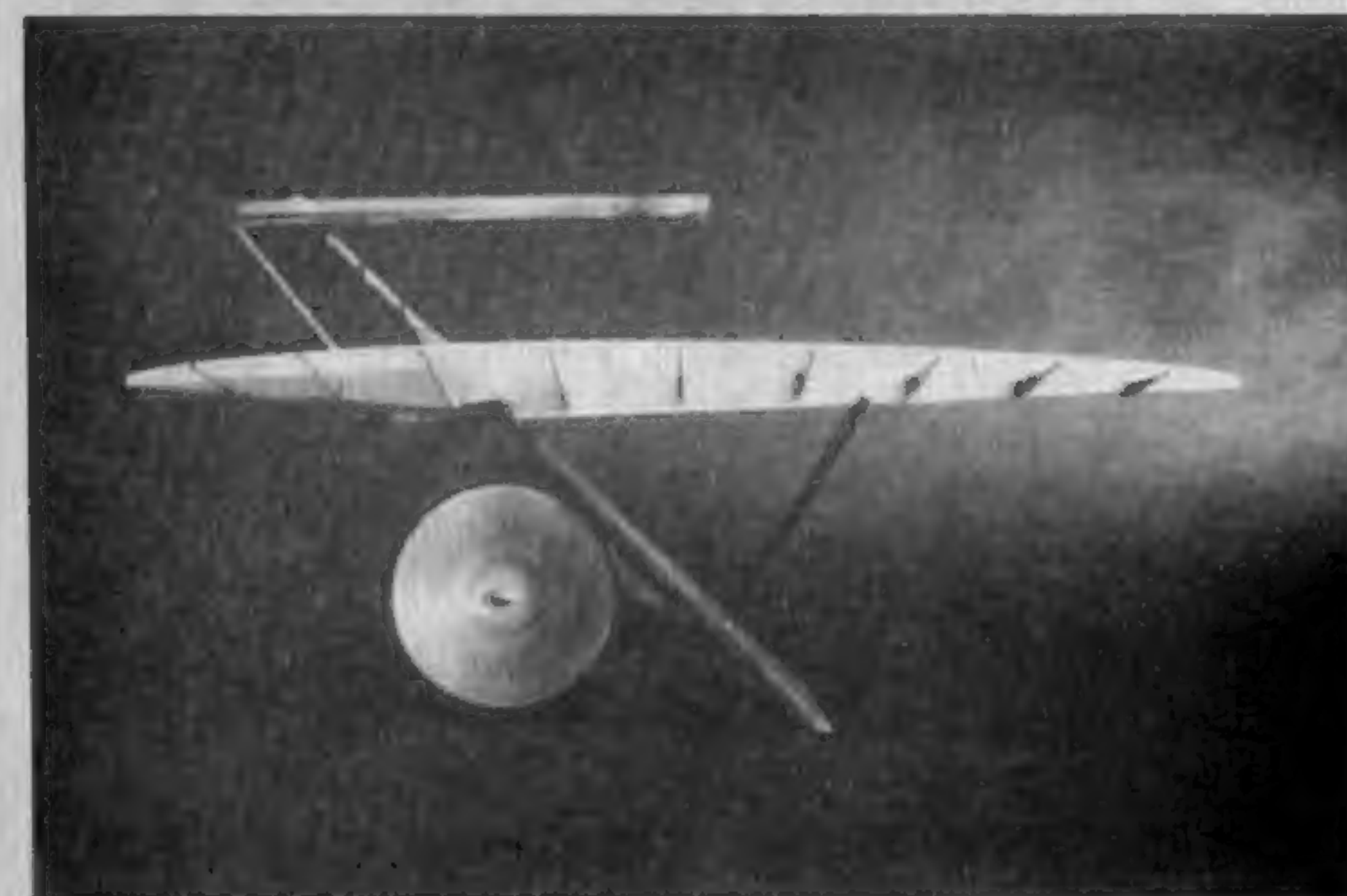
## Future Programs



Jan. 18-Feb. 12, 1989. Benta Stokke



Feb. 22-Mar. 19, Michael Webb



Mar. 29-Apr. 23, Kaplan and Krueger



May 3-28, Imré Makovecz

# Project DMZ

International forum/exhibition of theoretical proposals for events, strategies, designs, objects, ideas and other forms of action, intended to take place within the physical or conceptual frame work of the DMZ between North and South Korea, to generate a set of possibilities that could provoke the elimination of the DMZ, the unification of Korea, and meaningful response by art and architecture on socio-political confrontation.



Security guards at the Military Armistice Commission Building in the Panmunjom.

Todd Ayoung, Mo Bahe, Perry Bard, Joseph Bria, Brode Slowik, Jud Choi & Jun Saung Kim, Pei Ching Chou, David Chung, Peter Clements Robert Werthamer & Peter Frank & Bette Frank & Ashka Dymel, Cathleen Crabb & Taeg Nishimoto, Neil Denari, Jane Dodds & Scot Guerin, Russell Epprecht, Peter Fend, Alan Finkel, Ismael Frigerio, Gordon Gilbert, David Hanawalt, Hariri & Hariri, Zvi Hecker, Gee Yung Jeong, Tod Kabza, Kenneth Kaplan & Ted Krueger, David Kesler, Gran Kester & Greig Cryder, Jung Hyun Kim, Joongsuh Kim, Craig S. Konyk Donna Selene Seftel, Stanle Stinnett, Kyung Hoon Lee, Seung Jae Lee & Mark Leonardi & Yul Lee, Demetrius Manouselis, Marcus Margall, Ann Messner, Leo Modrcin, George Moore, Nam June Paik, Pascal Quintard-Hofftein, Hisao Shimizu, Peter Shinoda, Stiletto, Toshio Sasaki, Andrew Topolski, Jack Vengrow & Laurie Bae, Paul Virilio & Avant Travaux Studio, Joseph Wayman, David Wells, Lebbeus Woods, Jerilea Zempel.

November 22-December 18

Gallery Hours  
Wed.-Sun. 12-6pm

Opening Reception  
November 22, 7-9pm

**STOREFRONT**  
for Art & Architecture

97 Kenmare Street (near Lafayette) New York, NY 10012 212-431-5795  
Not-For-Profit Organization funded in part by NYSCA, NEA, DCA, Conde House Japan and the J. M. Kaplan Fund. A Program of CCF The Project DMZ is partly funded by Arts Matter Inc.



## Organization

### Purpose

STOREFRONT, founded in 1982, is a non-profit research center to investigate critical issues in art, architecture and urban environment. Our programs of exhibitions, projects, lectures, seminars and publications provide an open forum for independent artists and architects to work under the collaborative spirit for aesthetic, environmental and social advancements.

### Staff

Kyong Park: Founder/Director  
Shirin Neshat: Co-Director  
Sung Joo Kim: Assistant  
Cathleen Hotelling: Assistant  
Carlos Viquez: Assistant  
Calvert Wright: Intern

### Publication

Jane Dodds, David Hanawalt, Gordon Gilbert, Leo Modrcin,  
Taeq Nishimoto, Ken Saylor, Christopher Scholz.

### Discussion Program

Stephen Kornis: Project Director

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### Individual Contributions

(fiscal year 87/88)

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### Help

STOREFRONT will publish *FRONT* #3, a comprehensive catalogue of the Project DMZ, with full documentation of the participating works and critical writings by selected contributors. Your contribution will help to continue our successful publication *FRONT*, and make our activities and programs to reach international audience. All contributors will be acknowledged in our announcement/newsletter and publication.

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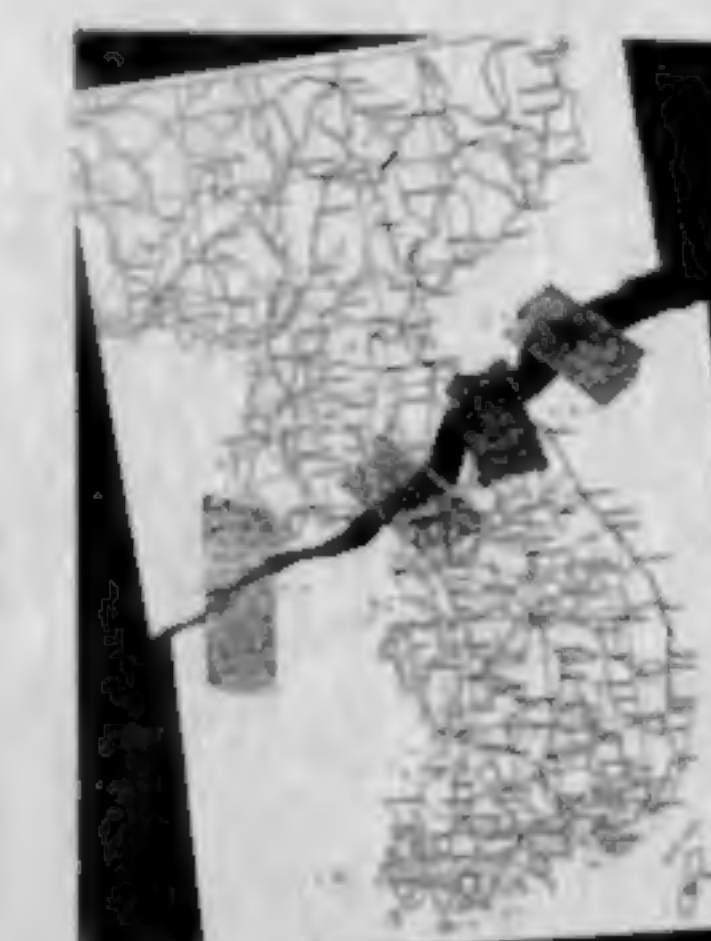
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Old entrance to the DMZ.

**STOREFRONT**  
for Art & Architecture  
97 Kenmare Street New York, NY 10012



## Current Programs

November 22-December 18

Wed.-Sun. 12-6pm

Exhibition: Project DMZ

### INTRODUCTION

"Project DMZ" is an international project aimed at understanding the nature of human conflict through the generation of alternatives to the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. Viewing the Korean DMZ as a product of political, military and economic polarization, the project calls for the intervention of aesthetic forces to initiate possible paths toward re-unification of the nation and its people.

"Project DMZ" is a forum comprised of individuals of different generations, cultures and mediums of expression. This forum, a coalition of diverse individuals under common purpose, opposes specialization and division amongst intellectual fields and rather supports an environment for human exchange, a condition antithetical to the nature of the DMZ itself.

### PREMISE

The premise of this project is the Korean DMZ and the consequential dismemberment of a nation, society, culture and people. The DMZ represents not only the literal separation of a nation and fundamental ideological division but also symbolizes the zenith of economic, political and military conflict. The DMZ's illusory representation of stability forbids the fundamental ingredient of dialogue and human contact necessary for human affairs that subsequently nurtures our need for unity and exchange. Ironically, the DMZ, site and symbol of neither war or peace, will result in either war or peace.

Korea, particularly, South Korea finds itself broiling in a highly charged solution of student uprising, worker strikes and the consequences of Olympics in Seoul. Demonstrations, which heretofore have found themselves relegated to political and labor issues and events, now occur at the DMZ itself with participants demanding that the nation be reunified. The DMZ, festering since its implementation, now demands to be addressed.

As a result of this widespread upheaval which threatens to cross over that barrier by defiant collective acts and the notion of the DMZ as simply a geographical divider, several questions and issues are raised. For instance, what is a meaningful response that art and architecture can make with regard to intense social anger and the usage of direct confrontation as a means to establish democracy and a unified people? What can artists and intellectuals do that is equally relevant and powerful as the acts of assertion that we see and read about such as self-immolation, marches, demonstrations and confrontations? Should they be involved at all?

### OBJECTIVES

This project seeks answers to these questions and others through exhibitions of proposals for events, strategies, designs, objects, ideas and other forms of action, taking place within the physical or conceptual framework of the DMZ, to generate a set of possibilities that could provoke the elimination of the DMZ through peaceful means.

### SITE

The entire DMZ or any portion thereof.



The line of steel and barbed wire stretched across the Korean terrain.

### A VIEW ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

Historically the Korean political situation is quite complex. A few main points about Korea's recent history should be made in order for us to grasp the nature of the events that have affected the daily lives of people in North and South Korea.

The presence of the Demilitarized zone (DMZ) sustains mass hysteria and a sense of eminent catastrophe for North and South Korea. North Korea, by accusing Japan and the United States of being potential aggressors and masters of the S. Korean government, further centralizes their political power. This maintains a constant fear of invasion. N. Korea believes that without the support of the U.S. and Japan, S. Korea would not survive. In turn, S. Korea assumes that N. Korea holds tens of thousands of political prisoners and dissenters. Unfortunately, it is the N. Korean citizenship that is paying for threadbare economic stability and its own cultural stagnation. This stagnation is maintained by restricting citizens rights and by maintaining national entrenchment within its own borders.

North and South Korea spend an absurdly high percentage (approximately 30% from each side) of their central government expenditure (C.G.E.) on guarding the DMZ. At the same time innumerable families have been split and are unable to reunite, visit or contact each other across the military boundary.

The U.S. justifies its military expenditure on buttressing the DMZ with the claim that the communists could destroy the economic prosperity of capitalist interests in South Korea.

In the recent past, the oppositional issues in South Korea were clearly anti-militaristic and anti-government, denouncing the government's misuse of power (imprisonment without due process, use of torture techniques and harsh quelling of protests). By association, it was the U.S. that stood accused of directing and



Meeting of Joint Observer Team.

supporting a government seen by the opposition as unpopular. Many critics have assumed that the U.S. government orchestrated repression against the Korean population, including the terrible Kwangju massacre. This massacre is considered a turning point in Korean politics. The Korean army, along with foreign forces, was thought to be conspiring against its people, particularly because the Korean army could only act with the knowledge and approval of the U.S. intermediate command, when it used deadly force at Kwangju. However, despite the central role of the U.S. military, the main effort of earlier oppositional struggles was to remove the Korean army from power.

Currently, radical opposition activists understand that the blame placed on the U.S. and other superpowers, for their part in maintaining the division of the country as well as keeping portions of the country marginally developed, goes back to the very origins of the Korean war. At that time the U.S. knowingly allowed N. Korea to cross the division border. This allowed the U.S. to install its power deeper into Korean affairs.

Interestingly, around the time of the burning down of the "American Cultural Service Center" (after the Kwangju massacre), only a small percentage of the Korean population had anti-American feelings. Currently, a much greater percentage are hostile to the continued presence of the American government as an occupying military force.

In the past, S. Korean anti-communist laws had been enforced to crush any opposition to the military government, and currently these laws allow the power elite to hold onto their rule. This, of course, precludes any real democratic development in S. Korea.

The recent "democratic" restructuring of the S. Korean Government into elected parties, supposedly allowing for an oppositional voice, only complicates the political picture as well as diverting the popular opposition.

While it would appear that the three Kims (i.e. Kim Young Sam, leader of the opposition conservative party representing the middle class, Kim Dae Yong, representing the poor and working class and Kim Jong Pil, related to the former president Park) would potentially terminate the military's monopoly of power, with a democratic opening-up of debate and choice, the situation is actually little changed for all practical purposes.

The last presidential election saw the re-election of the ruling party because of a split vote within the opposition parties. After the election, people focused their disappointment on this lack of cohesion within the opposition parties. What kept public anger at bay was supposedly that the country was under enormous economic development with great hope for the future.

The economic benefits were far from creating a strong base. Wages were kept low, working conditions were exploitative and unemployment loomed on the horizon. The country was also far from full democratization. Worsening the economic picture was the trade problem. In particular, the persistent interference and pressure by the U.S. disrupted local sectors of economy such as farming, meat production and cigarette manufacturing. U.S. leverage was far greater than that which constitutes an acceptable level. To this, one must add the burden of having to wastefully spend one-third of the C.G.E. on military expenditure to maintain an unwanted barrier, the DMZ.

A major shift in the balance of power in S. Korea seems to be on the verge of occurring within the composition of the electorate. This is visible in changing attitudes toward the government and relative



Bridge of No Return, where the prisoners of war were repatriated after the end of the Korean War, and remains as the only ground link between Seoul and Pyongyang.